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A SOUVENIR

A Fac-simile copy — of the — Edition Issued.

SESQUI-CENTENNIAL
REUNION

— of —

To — FORT LOUDON
FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Fort Loudon, Pa.

AUGUST 27-28, 1953, inclusive.

central on the 28, to which you are invited. An interesting
program will be presented. An interesting time is
anticipated. Come and make this Reunion a success.

COMMEMORATIVE of the FOUNDING of the TOWN

Prepared by

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE FORT LOUDON
SESQUI-CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Donation \$1.00

A SOUVENIR

— of the —

Allen County Public Library
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

SESSQUICENTENNIAL

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FORT LOUDON

FRANKLIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMEMORATIVE of the FOUNDED of the TOWN

Prepared by

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SESSQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Donation \$1.00

DEDICATION

2264748

A Fac-simile copy of the Invitation Issued.

FORT LOUDON, PENN'A.,

A. D. 1903.

To -----

Former and present Citizens will hold a Reunion in
Fort Loudon, Pa.

AUGUST 27—31 next, inclusive,
central on the 29, to which you are invited. An interesting
program will be arranged. A pleasant and happy time is
anticipated. Come and make this Reunion a success.

JAS. P. STARLIPER,
President

L. D. BURKHOLDER,
GEO. M. STENGER,
Cor. Sec'ys.

. DEDICATION .

Mr. Joe S. Rotz

Mrs. Alcesta Lininger

Honorary Presidents
of
Fort Loudon Sesqui-Centennial
Committee

With a profound sense of gratitude for the inspired work done by the Fort Loudon Centennial Committee of 1903, we humbly dedicate this historical booklet of Fort Loudon to Mr. Joe S. Rotz and Mrs. Alcesta Lininger, the only living members of the 1903 Centennial Committee, whose inspiration and advice have been of unestimable value to us in planning the Fort Loudon Sesqui-Centennial Celebration.

DEDICATION



Joe S. Rotz

Mr. Joe S. Rotz now eighty-two and one half years young. Our village, Ft. Loudon, the schools of Peters Township, and our local Evangelical and Reformed church have never had a more sincere and loyal advocate and worker than Mr. Rotz. His life's aim has been to direct his family of ten children, his church, and his community to the best things attainable.

. . DEDICATION . .



Mrs. Alcesta Lininger

Mrs. Alcesta Lininger now 80 years young.

Her 65 years of unparalleled service and sincere devotion to children and in Public Schools, Sunday School, and Community, her still young and indomitable spirit and her continued interest in youth, and her exemplification of noble living, have won for her the love, honor, and respect of four generations of Loudonites who still inquire, when visiting our village—how is Miss Ollie.

REUNION OFFICERS OF 1903

James P. Starliper	President
J. P. Gluck	Recording Secretary
L. D. Burkholder	Corresponding Secretary
G. M. Stenger	Corresponding Secretary
Daniel Baer	Treasurer

MANAGERS

Miss Alcesta Sellers, Chairman.

Miss Belle Mullan	Messrs—
Miss Miriam A. Hassler	Joseph Rotz
Mrs. John H. Metz	Henry Lininger
Miss Jennie Senseny	John Rotz
Miss Alice Crilly	Daniel Baer
Mrs. James Shultz	George E. Snider
	Millard Kline
	George W. Lininger

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

Wm. Martin	Sam'l O. McLaughlin	C. D. Smith
George Hamil		Charles Baer

SOUVENIR SONG

OF MY BIRTHPLACE

FORT LOUDON, PENNSYLVANIA

by Catherine Ryder

Come and see what kind nature
Has so lavishly done,
In crowning with beauty
These slopes to the sun.

When soft dying sunsets
Climb o'er the tall crest
Of rock covered mountains
That shut out the west.

A village lies nestling
Amid the fair shade
Of timber-clad mountains,
With upland and glade.

Then, looking out eastward,
What beauties are seen;
In Kittattinnay mountains,
And valleys of green!

A bit north to east compass,
See, Mount Parnell arise,
Whose peak when fog covered
Seems touching the skies.

Tuscarora lies westward,
Awe strikingly strange,
Stretching on to the southland,
With range upon range.

Then looking up northward
See a pyramid rise,
Jordan's Knob stands so massive,
It awakens surprise.

Thus, mountains environed,
By Nature's true God,
Here once in his freedom
The Indian trod.

On west Conococheague,
Every winding he knew,
As he sped o'er its waters
In a light bark canoe.

With health and with plenty
Our village is blest;
Here may the world weary
One, peacefully rest.

Here pure sparkling water
From mountain-side spring,
Forever flows downward—
"Fit draught for a king."

Think ye, these pen pictures
Too strongly are made?
Then visit our village,
And bask in its shade.

Reunion Program

USED IN 1803

Thursday Evening, August 27, 8 o'clock.

Music

Address of Welcome W. S. Hoerner, Esq.

Music

Response Mr. John Patterson, Youngwood, Pa.

Music

Historical Address Rev. James M. Mullan, Baltimore, Md.

Music

Informal Reception

Music

•

Friday, August 28.

9:30 a. m. Basket Picnic at Locust Grove, Stenger's Hill.

Addresses by Rev. Daniel Kurtz, other vistors, and the local clergy.

Music, vocal and instrumental.

8:00 p. m. Illumination of town and balloon ascension.

9 to 10 p. m. Fireworks.

•

Saturday, August 29.

12:30 p. m. Baseball.

3:00 p. m. Tournament.

8:00 p. m. Concert by visitors and local talent.

•

Sunday, August 30.

10:30 a. m. Divine services in all the churches.

6:30 p. m. Union open air services.

Fort Loudon Sesqui-Centennial Committee, Inc.
Fort Loudon, Pennsylvania

OFFICERS

HONORARY PRESIDENTS

Mr. Joe S. Rotz

Mrs. Alcesta Lininger

PRESIDENT
Fred L. Gish

VICE PRESIDENTS

1st— Wm. C. Rea

2nd— Joe Borellis

3rd— Mrs. H. H. Keefer

RECORDING SECRETARY
Mrs. Wm. C. Rea

CORRESPONDING SECRETARIES

Mrs. Orville Wise

Mrs. J. A. McLaughlin

TREASURER

Mrs. Lloyd Pensinger

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

CHURCH	Rev. W. F. Rex
HOME COMING	Mrs. A. L. Smith
FINANCE	W. E. Bowling
PUBLICITY	Mrs. W. E. Bowling
PROPERTY	Eugene Zeger
HISTORIAN	John C. Hopkins
DECORATING	Sam Atkinson
PROGRAM	Mrs. Ruth D. McLaughlin

The Executive Officers of the Fort Loudon Sesqui-Centennial salute 150 years of History and Progress of Fort Loudon Community and extend a most cordial welcome to our visitors who have come to help us enjoy the 150th Anniversary Celebration.

SAINT PETER'S EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH Fort Loudon, Penna.

Congregation Organized:
1819

First Church Building:
Built: 1819-20

Dedicated: May 21, 1820

This was a Union Church built and used by Lutherans, Presbyterians, and Reformeds.

Use of Church Building:
Used by above three denominations until 1842. From that time until 1876 used by the Reformed Church.

Present Church Building:

Cornerstone laid in 1876.

Lecture room dedicated
June 1, 1877.

Church proper dedicated
July 25, 1880.

Trustees: First Building

John Dickey, Thomas Scott,
John Beaver, Nicholas Baker
George Werner.

Present Church Erected:

During pastorate (1873-91)

of Rev. Jacob Hassler, D. D.

Renovated in 1922, during

the pastorate (1922-24), of

Rev. Adam E. Schellhase,
D. D.

Renovated in 1950, during

the pastorate (1946-51), of

Rev. Mark B. Michael.

Present Organization

Congregation

Pastor

Ernest W. Brindle

Elders:

Joseph S. Rotz, Sr.

Harvey W. Zeger

Bruce M. Small

John Nelling



Deacons:

John C. Hopkins

Parker Tritle

Eugene L. Zeger

Joseph L. Rotz, Jr.

Sunday School:

Superintendent

Eugene L. Zeger

Asst. Superintendent

J. Frank Miller

Secretary

Joseph Rotz III

Asst. Secretary

Ronald Hamil

Treasurer

Mrs. Ruth McLaughlin

Women's Guild:

President

Mrs. Ruth McLaughlin

Vice President

Mrs. Ida Faith

Secretary

Mrs. Violet Zeger

Treasurer

Mrs. Pauline Rotz



CINCINNATI SOURCE T. J. LONDON, DAVID 1922
U.S. ROUTE 20

PROGRAM
FOR
Sesqui-Centennial Celebration
Ft. Loudon, Pennsylvania

August 20, 21, 22, 23, 1953

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20TH

7:00 P. M. — Opening — Bells of Christ Church as they
Proclaimed the Declaration of Independence July 1776.
Parade.

Band Concert On School Ground
Address of Welcome Atty. Chauncey Depuy, Ft. Loudon
Response to Welcome Mrs. Ella Dale Fisher,
Brownsville, Pa.

Music.

Home Talent Entertainment Solos, Quartette,
Reading, Playlet

Street Dance.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST

Daytime Visiting friends and viewing historic displays

7:30 P. M. Music

Historic Address Neil H. Swanson
(Novelist, Historian, and V. Pres. of Baltimore Sun)

Music.

Picture The Allegheny Uprising

Entertainment by Visiting Talent:

Hon. John S. Fine — Gov. of Penna.

Hon. Alan Reynolds — Sec'y. of Property and
Supplies, Commonwealth of Pa.

Guest Period.

—: PROGRAM :—

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22ND

Morning — Free

Afternoon — Baseball,

Muzzle Loader Shooting Match conducted by
Clarence Bender, McConnellsburg,
Pres. of National Muzzle Loaders Assoc.

2:00 — 4:00 P. M. Reunion of Mrs. Alcesta Lininger's
and all other available former teachers and pupils.

Evening: Festival Tri-State D. C. Brigade U. R. K.
of P. Band, Hanover, Pa.

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 23

Churches:

Sabbath School at 9:30 A .M.

Worship Service at 10:30 A. M.

Lutheran: Rev. Richard Rife, and Chaplain John R. Strevig

Methodist: Rev. Robert Hovenstine, and Guest Ministers

Reformed: Rev. Ernest W. Brindle, and visiting Ministers

SUNDAY EVENING

Union Outdoor Service Rev. Harvey D. Hoover
Ph. D. S. T. D. of the Lutheran
Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, Pa.

If convenient please bring your own folding chairs.

LETTER SENT TO ALL CITIZENS

Dear Friends of Fort Loudon:

History is the story of human progress or stagnation or of retrogression. We cannot change the past, it is written in deed and document, but we can help preserve it for the future. All of us who live in this area of the Cumberland Valley can point with justifiable pride to our rich historical heritage, which has played such important roles in the life of our Commonwealth and Nation, both in War and Peace.

For these and many other reasons, we pause to celebrate 150 years of honored history. In order that the occasion should be one long to be remembered and in order that reminiscences can be exchanged, we are inviting all present and one-time living residents of Fort Loudon to be present at this Celebration —August 20-23, 1953.

The aims of the Fort Loudon Sesqui-Centennial Observation are:

1. To bring to focus the historic events of the past 150 years, by means of picture and parade.
2. To view or review historic places in our community.
3. To note the passing scene in our present community life.
4. To reminisce and fellowship with friends.

Unfortunately, we do not have a "Tom Brenneman Show," as did Waynesboro, nor a "Betty Crocker Attraction", as McConnellsburg has, to simplify our financial problem. Consequently, we of the Fort Loudon Community must depend almost entirely on generosity of our Citizens and all interested folks near and far, for much needed financial support.

We ask all patriotic citizens of this area, as well as former residents, who are interested in the success of the

Sesqui-Centennial, to make a contribution. With your good help, the Sesqui-Centennial celebration can be one of the most fitting and memorable events in the history of Fort Loudon.

Please remember that any gift you desire to make will be most acceptable and greatly appreciated. The handy form below is for your convenience.

Hoping that you are interested, we again say "Come, Visit Our Village" and participate in our Celebration, on August 20-23, 1953.

Sincerely yours,
Fred L. Gish, President.

To Helen Pensinger, Treasurer
Fort Loudon Sesqui-Centennial Comm., Inc.
Fort Loudon, Pennsylvania

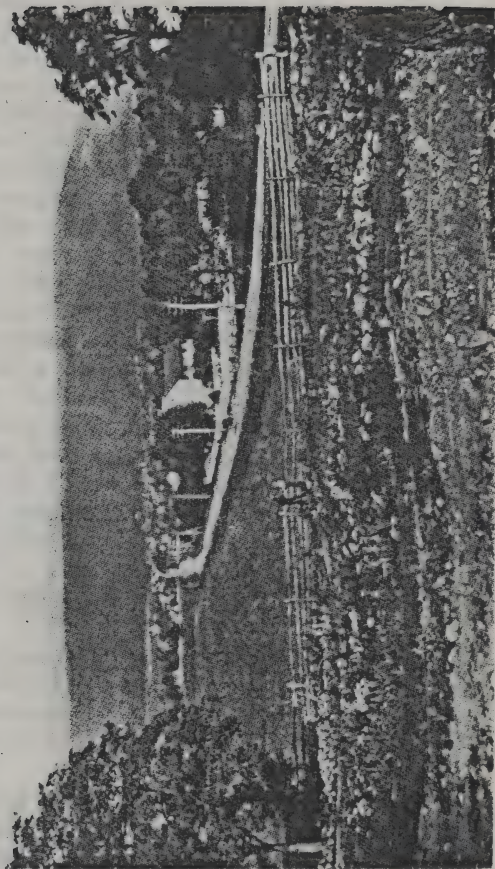
Please find enclosed _____ Cash _____ as my
Check

contribution toward the Fort Loudon Sesqui-Centennial to
be observed August 20-23, 1953

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____



View From Stenger's Hill In 1904

Historical Address

——— Delivered by ———

Rev. James M. Mullan

The history of Loudon begins in the dim, distant past, so far distant and so dim that it is very difficult to secure much knowledge that can be entirely relied upon.

This community was doubtless among the earliest of this section of the country to be settled. The original portion of the town is situated upon land that belonged to the farm immediately adjoining it on the south side, at present the possession of Mr. Daniel Baer, and previously owned for many years by Mr. John Smith. The patent for this tract of land that by virtue of a warrant bearing date the first day of March, 1737, it "was surveyed and laid out on the sixth day of May in the year 1738, unto Wm. Wilson of the county of Lancaster." (At that time this section of country was in Lancaster County, and in Hopewell Township; Peter's Township was not organized until about 1750, and Franklin County not until 1734.) The section of the town along the turnpike west of the "square" is located upon land that was part of a tract patented to Mesech James under date of September 30, 1748. The land upon which the Fort was afterwards built was settled by Matthew Patton, great grand-father of the late Elias Patton, and was held by him by virtue of a warrant from the Commonwealth dated April 18, 1744. The earliest settlement of the township is generally accredited to William McDowell, near Bridgeport, variously placed at from 1730 to 1737. It will thus be seen that the settlement of this community must be placed amongst the earliest of the township.

The early settlers generally were Scotch-Irish, a brave and hardy race of people, well qualified by generations of persecutions and hardships to meet the dangers and endure the trials of pioneer settlement, who laid well the foundations upon which others have since built.

The troubles of the settlers of this valley began about 1754 with the breaking out of the war in America between England and France, known as the French and Indian War. It does not appear that they suffered from French hostilities. It was the Indians who disturbed the tranquility of the settlements and they produced a reign of terror, in which the "Conococheague settlement," as this section was then called, shared. In September, 1754, an Indian trader, Joseph Campbell, was killed by an Indian of the Six Nations, at the house of one Anthony Thompson, at the foot of the Tuscarora Valley, near Parnell's Knob. In June, 1775, James Smith, of Peter's Township, was waylaid by the Indians, his companion shot, and he himself

taken captive. A little later in the same year the Indians set fire to the houses of Matthew Patton and Mesech James, and carried off two women of the township as captives. About the same time news was received in this settlement of Indian incursions into the Great Cove, and that of ninety-three families in the two coves and regions thereabouts, forty-seven were either killed or taken, and the rest deserted. Several incursions during this year are noted in the neighborhood of McDowell's Mill (Bridgeport), the Indians barbarously murdering some of the inhabitants, carrying off others, and committing other depredations. April 4th of this year McCord's Fort near Parnell's Knob (Keefer's Postoffice) was burned by the Indians and 27 persons were killed or captured. From letters written at the time it appears that great fear and consternation prevailed all along the frontier settlements and numerous petitions were sent to the Governor for protection. To meet this condition of things a battalion of provincial troops, numbering seven-hundred, was sent into the Cumberland Valley under Col. John Armstrong of Carlisle, and many private forts and block houses were built or constructed out of dwelling houses.

Such a fort was McDowell's where Bridgeport now stands, built about 1754. It was as a result of the Indian hostilities of this time that Fort Loudon was built by order of the provincial government, as a part of an official plan for the defense of the frontier settlements. It was built in the fall of 1756, on ground then owned as already said, by Matthew Patton, now the property of Mr. John Hoerner. The property is commonly known as the "Patton farm," situated on the east side of the Conococheague Creek about a mile and a half south of the town. The Fort covered about an acre of ground, part of which is now included in the farm yard, was built of logs upon a stone foundation, and contained barracks and store houses, surrounded by a stockade. Both logs and stones supposed to have been taken from the ruins thereof may yet be seen in the foundation and chimney walls of a building on the farm, if indeed this structure is not the "new house" referred to as having been built by Matthew Patton before the Indians destroyed his old one, appraised by Col. Armstrong and used for officers barracks. When the fort was built Col. Armstrong asked for authority to name it "Pomfret Castle," but it appears that there then existed a fort bearing this name, and he was instructed to call it Fort Loudoun, (spelled Loudoun) doubtless after Lord Loudoun, who had arrived in America the 23rd of July, preceding, (1756) as General and Commander-in-Chief of all the English forces in North America.

It would seem to have been the first intention to locate this fort at Barr's, near McDowell's Mill, but Col. Armstrong says he "could not find in it a proper situation for a fort, the soil being too strong to admit the ditch, and the spot itself overlooked

by an adjoining hill." December 22, Mr. Stevens says: "The public stores are safely removed from McDowell's Mill to Fort Loudoun; the barracks for the soldiers are built and some proficiency made in the stockade, the finishing of which doubtless will be retarded by the inclemency of the weather. Yesterday the escort of 100 men returned from Lyttleton who left the cattle, etc., safe there, and today will begin to dig a cellar in the new fort. The logs and roof of a house nearby having there been erected by Patton before the Indians burned his old one; we shall first appraise this house and take the benefit of it for officers barracks, or a store-house for provisions. —(Aupp's History.)

As to the construction of the fort nothing more definite than this is known. A brief description of Fort Lowther, at Carlisle will give a fair idea of the manner in which the early frontier forts were nearly all constructed: "Around the area to be embraced with the fort, a ditch was dug to the depth of about four feet. In this oak logs or logs of some other kind of timber not easily set on fire or cut through, and about 17 to 18 feet long, pointed at the top, were placed in an upright position, two sides of the logs were hewn flat, and the sides were brought together and fastened securely near the top, by horizontal pieces of timber spiked or pinned upon their inner sides, so as to make the whole stockade firm and staunch. The ditch having been filled up again, platforms were constructed all around the inner sides of the enclosure some four or five feet from the ground, and upon these the defenders stood, and fired through loopholes left near the top of the stockade, upon those who were investing or attacking the fort. A few gates were left in the stockade for ingress and egress, and they were made as strong and secure and as capable of defense as the means of those within would enable them to make them." —(Rupp's History.)

This Fort was garrisoned by British as well as provincial troops until the close of the war, and afterwards at least until 1765. It is considered to have been a very important post, and without doubt was the strongest in the county. In 1757 when it was decided officially that only four forts on this side of the Susquehanna should remain, Fort Loudoun was selected as one of the four, and two companies of Colonel Armstrong's battalion were garrisoned there to be engaged in patrolling between these forts. "Fort Loudoun was an important post on the frontier at the period when the red men held almost undisputed sway in the now far-famed Cumberland and Shenandoah Valleys— Its location on the great commercial highway to the west—gave it pre-eminence in the catalogue of the early frontier defenses, rendering it worthy to receive state mark as suggested by Act of Assembly— Its importance as a military, trading

and rendezvousing post cannot be over-estimated." —Frontier Forts.

After peace was declared in 1763, hostilities were again commenced by the Indians and the frontiers of Pennsylvania were over-run by scalping parties. The inhabitants of our valley shared in these horrors. It was during this time that the School-master, Enoch Bown, and his ten pupils (eight boys and two girls) were massacred three miles west of Greencastle, which the historian Parkman is quoted as pronouncing "an outrage unmatched in fiend-like atrocity through all the annals of the war." In a letter from Col. Armstrong to Gov. Penn. dated June, 1764, he tells of an Indian attack about four miles from Fort Loudoun, in which thirteen persons were killed and several houses burned to the ground.

It was decided by the citizens of this community to make a stand against the Indians. Money was raised to pay a company of riflemen for a time. A committee was organized by the subscribers to manage the business. A certain James Smith of Peter's Township was made Captain with power to choose his own subalterns. He chose two young men who had long been in captivity with the Indians, as he himself had been. He says: "As we enlisted our men, we addressed them uniformly in Indian manner with breech-clouts, leggins, moccasins, and green shrouds, which we wore in the same manner that the Indians do, and nearly as the Highlanders wear their plaids. In place of hats we wore red handkerchiefs, and painted our faces red and black like Indian warriors. I taught them Indian discipline as I knew of no other at that time, which would answer the purpose much better than the British. We succeeded beyond expectation in defending the frontiers, and were extolled by our employees."

Smith played an important part in the exciting affairs of those early times. In 1755 he accompanied a body of men sent out of the province of Pennsylvania to cut a wagon road from Fort Loudoun to join Braddock's road. When, near the Allegheny mountains, he was sent back with a companion to hurry up the provision wagons, he was way-laid by the Indians, his partner shot, and he himself taken captive and carried to Fort Duquesne. He was exchanged with other prisoners and returned home in 1760. He afterwards published an account of his experiences, references to which in this sketch are from "Border Life." See also Archibald Loudon's "Narratives."

An incident is related by Smith that shows the spirit of the times in the vicinity of Fort Loudoun. He says: "The King's proclamation was then circulating and set up in various public places, prohibiting any person from trading with the Indians until further orders. Notwithstanding all this, about the 1st of March, 1765, a number of wagons loaded with Indian goods, and warlike stores, were sent from Philadelphia to Henry Pol-

tens, Conococheague, and from thence seventy pack horses were loaded with these goods to carry them to Fort Pitt." He tells of a fruitless effort made by Mr. Wm. Duffield with fifty armed men who met the pack horses at the place where Mercersburg now stands, to have them store up their goods and not proceed until further orders. "When I beheld this" said Smith, "and found that Mr. Duffield would not compel them to store up their goods, I collected ten of my old warriors, that I had formerly disciplined in the Indian way, went off privately after night and encamped in the woods. The next day, as usual, we blacked and painted, and way-laid them at Sideling Hill. I scattered my men about forty rods along the side of the road, and ordered every two to take a tree, and eight or ten rods between each couple, with orders to keep a reserve fire, and not to fire until his comrade had loaded his gun— by this means we kept up a constant, slow fire upon them, from front to rear— When they saw their pack horses falling close by them, they called out: 'Pray, gentlemen, what would you have us to do?' The reply was: 'Collect all your loads to the front and unload them in one place; take your private property and immediately retire!' When they were gone we burnt what was left, which consisted of blankets, shirts, vermilion, lead, beads, wampum, tomahawks, scalping knives, etc."

He further relates that the traders went back to Fort Loudoun and applied to the commanding officer, Captain Grant, who sent a party of Highland soldiers in quest of the robbers, "as they called us," says Smith. They took a number of persons prisoners "who were chiefly not any way concerned in this action," and confined them in the guardhouse at Fort Loudoun. Thereupon Smith raised three hundred riflemen, marched to Fort Loudoun and encamped on a hill in sight of the Fort, and in a short time succeeded in capturing a number of the British troops and in exchange for them secured the release of the citizens held in the guardhouse. With reference to this affair a song was composed by George Campbell, "an Irish gentleman educated at Dublin," and frequently sung to the tune of "Black Joke."

After this Captain Grant retained a number of rifles which the Highlanders had taken from the country folk. Smith says: "As he was riding out one day, we took him prisoner, and detained him until he delivered up the arms." Captain Grant complained of this insult to Col. Armstrong who in a letter dated Carlisle, June 1st, 1765, relates the incident. Colonel Armstrong writes: "He, (i.e. Grant), says on the 28th ult. (May) he was taking the air on horseback; and about half a mile from his post, was surrounded by five of the rioters who presented their pieces at him. One of them fired at him, frightened his horse, that he ran into the bushes and occasioned his being thrown upon the ground. They then disarmed him, carried

him fifteen miles into the woods, and threatened to tie him to a tree and let him perish, if he would not give them up their arms." He promised to deliver up the rifles within five weeks, being required to give security under penalty of forty pounds.

From official letters, copies of which are found in the various histories that have been written concerning those times, it appears that such incidents of conflict between the citizens and military authorities, and of summary dealing with the Indian traders were not uncommon. Smith himself says: "The King's troops, and our party, had now got entirely out of the civil law, and many unjustifiable things were done by both parties."

The Governor issued, January 15, 1766, a writ to apprehend Smith as ringleader of the riots. Sometime afterwards on his way west, near Bedford, with a small party of friends, an attempt was made to arrest him without warrant, and one of his companions was killed, for which Smith was held. He was confined in prison at Carlisle for four months, and was then acquitted. The next year he was elected as a member of a Board of Commissioners in Bedford County, and afterwards served on a similar Board for three years in Westmoreland County, and occupied other positions of honor and trust in the same County. He rendered valiant service in the War of Independence, and, in 1778 received a Colonel's commission.

As a trading post Loudoun was a great point of departure for pack-horse trains for the West before wagon roads had been built across the mountains.

After Braddock's disastrous defeat near Fort Duquesne, now Pittsburgh, a large part of his disheartened troops returned by this way. In 1755 a road was built from this point westward by order of the Provincial government for the purpose of forwarding supplies to Braddock's army, but upon word of his defeat, work was stopped at Raystown, now Bedford. General Forbes and Colonel Bouquet used this road in their successful expedition against Fort Duquesne in 1758. This road is commonly spoken of as "Braddock's Road," but should not be confused with the road over which Braddock marched on his western expedition. It was built from ten to thirty feet in width; the track if it can yet be traced to Cowen's Gap, and a portion of it is now used as the public road between Loudon and Richmond Furnace. There is a passage through a section of woodland east of the town, on the Divilbiss property; that has been pointed out by older citizens as a part of this old road.

The town of Loudon is referred to in the records of events thereabouts as early as 1756, the year of the building and naming of the Fort. It is spoken of as Loudon-town. The present town was founded by Mr. Johnston Elliott, who owned, and lived upon the farm already referred to, now belonging to Mr. Daniel Baer, adjoining the town on the south side. As originally laid out it included all of the town proper as it is today.

with the exception of the western section, lying along the turnpike. It consisted of one street, named Main Street, and sometimes referred to in the records of deeds as Market Street, fifty feet wide, with lots on either side, 50 by 200 feet. These lots were sold by Mr. Elliott for the sum of \$20 each, subject to a yearly ground rent of \$1.00.

The following is a list of the original purchasers of the lots, obtained from the County records, mentioned in the order in which they occur therein:

James McMullan, Patrick Henry, Samuel Frery, James Adair, et. al., Thomas Scott, John Moore, Gasper Taylor, Thomas Williams, Chas. Kilgore, Chas. McGee, Hugh Merriaton, Alex Work, Jacob Piper, Philip Garret, James Clayton, Frederick Shearer, John Witter, Daniel Markley, John Parkhill, Daniel Detzler, Joab Hodgkins, John King, Conrad Piper, Geo. K. Harper, John Endslinger, Philip Meng, Leonard Gass.

The records show that these lots were sold between the dates January 1, 1804, when the ground upon which the hotel now stands was conveyed to Philip Meng, and February 1, 1819. There is no doubt that many of the houses now standing were built when the town was laid out, and a few it is thought were in existence at that time. It is currently believed that the oldest building at the present time is the rear portion of the dwelling house owned by Mr. Thomas Ford.

The land upon which the section of the town along the turnpike west of the "square" is built, belonged at the time of the founding of the town to General James Chambers. The following is a copy of an advertisement that appeared in the Franklin Repository, of Chambersburg, March 19, 1805:

NEW TOWN

Lots are to be sold in the town of Loudon, on the elevated and beautiful situation, at the place known by the name of Loudon Forge, in Franklin County, State of Pennsylvania. No place in the State, I believe, is more healthy. The prospect is delightful, having a full view of the remarkable and well-known Parnold's Nob on the east, with a pleasing landscape afforded by the charming rising hills on the west of the town, from which a stream of running water, with a small expense, can be conveyed to each house. It is laid out on the great road to Pittsburg, by way of McConnellsburg from Philadelphia and Baltimore, 12 miles west of Chambersburg. The great road leading from Winchester, in Virginia; Williamsport and Hagerstown in Maryland, through Green Castle and Mercersburg into the Genesee Country; and to Northumberland, Mifflin,

Huntingdon, and Meadville near the Lakes, will pass this way. Lots may be had by applying to

James Chambers.

Loudon Forge, March 18th, 1805.

The history of the town since its founding is chiefly an unwritten history. The two most important institutions of the town from the earliest times, are the church and the public school. Before the adoption of the free school system in 1854, a subscription school was maintained in a log school building, the erection of which ante-dates the memory of the oldest inhabitants of the town now living. As described by those who remember it, it corresponded to the well-known "cabin school," with "puncheon floor, slab benches and open-throated chimney" of early times.

In 1819-20 the first Church was erected. This was the old brick Church that stood upon ground now included in the Reformed Church graveyard. The following was copied from a reprint of a notice that appeared in a Chambersburg paper bearing date of May 9, 1820:

CONSECRATION.

The German and English Presbyterian Meeting House, in Loudon Town, Franklin county, will be consecrated on Sunday the 21st instant; to which solemnity the public are cordially invited. Divine services will be performed in both languages, and the trustees expect a band of music will attend on the occasion.

John Dickey,
Thomas Scott,
John Beaver,
Nicholas Baker,
George Werner,

May 2, 1820.

Trustees L. T. M. H.

N. B.—There will also be preaching on Monday the 22nd.

This was a union Church built by Presbyterians, Lutherans, and Reformeds. The first pastor of the "Meeting House" was the Rev. John Jewett, of Baltimore. He was succeeded by the Rev. Robert Kennedy from Welsh Run, of whom it is said that he served for many years without salary. The Reformed Congregation was organized about the time when this building was erected (1819), though prior to this services were held in Stenger's School House. In 1820 there were seventeen names on the Reformed Church record among which were John Long, Magdalena Long, Philip Tritle, Elizabeth Tritle, Peter Stenger, and

Conrad Stenger. The arrangement of union services of the three congregations referred to continued until about 1842. After this time the Church property was used exclusively by the Reformed Congregation, the Presbyterians becoming absorbed and the Lutherans building a house of worship for themselves where their Church is at present located, on land of Mr. John Beaver, which, with the graveyard, he deeded to the congregation in 1849. The Lutheran congregation, according to an old Record Book containing the proceedings of the Church Council that we have examined, was organized May 7, 1843, with thirty-three members whose names are appended to the "Plan of Organization," a copy of which is recorded in the book referred to. There is, however, knowledge that ante-dates this, and places the organization about 1830, with the following charter members: John Beaver and wife, Catherine Allinder, Elizabeth Brahm, Samuel McGrath, Peter Spencer, Catherine Spencer, James McCuen and wife, Sam'l Wright. Lutheran services were held, we have been told, before the Union Church was built. The Methodist Church dates its organization from 1826, at which time the old Church building now in ruins in the western section of the town, was erected, the land having been purchased from Mr. John Mullan, grand-father of the present owner of the property, and also of the speaker. Some of the early members of this congregation were the Mileses, Hendersons, Statlers, Burkholders, and Duffields. The United Brethren Congregation which has some time since been disbanded, began as an organization in 1855 and consisted of John Haller and wife, Benjamin Hoover and wife, and John Lemaster and wife. However, as in the case of the other Churches, preaching services had been held in the town for some years before the organization of the congregation. (History of Franklin County.)

With regard to the industrial sphere, there was a time when Loudon occupied a prominent place and contributed directly to the commercial progress of the country. About 1794, General James Chambers built a forge there, and a furnace was in operation within the same period. Iron manufacturies were located also at "Valley Forge," at "Nor" East and at Mt. Pleasant. Besides these industries there were woolen mills, wagon-maker shops, blacksmith shops, whip shops, and saddler shops. Loudon wagons, Loudon whips and Loudon gears had a reputation of being the best on the market and were in demand from far and near. In addition to all this an immense amount of travel over the turnpike added greatly to the thrift of the old town, and made it a place of unsurpassed prosperity. An account kept at the turnpike leading from Loudon to Mc-

Connellsburg for the years 1830 and 1834, will give an idea of the amount of travel that passed through Loudon in those days. (Rupp's History.)

	1830	1834
Broad Wheeled Wagons	6641	6359
Narrow Wheeled Wagons	495	374
Single Horse Wagons	761	1243
Carriages	138	107
Two horse wagons	318	779
Gigs	18	00
Riding horses	3116	2817
Draft horses	39824	42330
Herds of cattle	5834	6457
Sheep	2180	2852
Hogs	1180	40
Carts	18	00

Indeed, it has been said that during this era of prosperity "money flowed into the town like water," that "fortunes" were made and spent with "purpose prodigality." But Loudon's industrial career was short-lived. The building of canals and railroads elsewhere turned the tide of travel and commerce and brought about complete ruin to Loudon's industries, as well as to the industries of many other places similarly located. Within the memory of most of the present citizens of the town there has been little or no progress. In a historical sketch that was published in the *Vailey Spirit*, written from Loudon August 25, 1876, "By a Citizen," the writer deplored the lack of enterprise in the town, but said that notwithstanding this deplorable condition the people were making comfortable livings, and were looking happily forward to "the good time coming." That was twenty-eight years since, and the good time coming has not yet come. But what was true then has ever since been true that the people are making comfortable livings, such as few other places that have taken a large part in the industrial development of our country can boast of, and are looking happily forward. I wish, in this connection, to quote a paragraph from that sketch, which says: "The old town, notwithstanding these evidences of decay, is not without its sterling attractions. Beautifully situated as it is, with its mountain backgrounds on three sides, and looking out southward on a lovely stretch of farmland, unsurpassed for high culture and elegant enjoyment, its mountain scenery, its ravishing outlooks from the surrounding knobs, its pure healthful air, and above all its sparkling mountain water carried a dis-

tance of two miles in iron pipes, clear and limpid as it gushed from the mountain side, so trunked and concealed that it never sees daylight until tapped at the stocks in the town, through all of which it passes, and off in a constant stream from below, these and a hundred other endearments go to make up a pleasant habitation and home for a community of more than medium intelligence, and of social qualities of highly enjoyable character."

A community of which such words can be said truthfully, surely has little reason to complain that it witnesses few of the incidents and takes part in few of the events that belong to the material development of the country. Moreover, it may be said, that if for many years this community has not been making history, it has been doing better than this,-- it has been making the makers of history. I venture the assertion, at the risk of being charged with egotism, that few towns have greater reason to be proud of the men and women whom they have given to the world, and whom they have sent out to do the world's work, than has the town that we delight to honor. Both on the field of battle and in the pursuits of peace, in her contributions of men she has made a record, for which none need ever feel aught but pride when we remember that she gave an Easton to die, and a Tom Scott to live, for the welfare of mankind; not to mention many others who have proved equally faithful in life and in death, whom she bore, and reared and educated and sent forth to service.

The word with which I should like to conclude this sketch upon this commemorative occasion is that of appreciation. It has been said that there is no success without suffering: if we succeed without suffering, it is because others have suffered before us; if we suffer without succeeding, it is in order that others may succeed after us. How hard it must have been for our fathers to witness, without the power to stay, the passing of their prosperity! The boys are succeeding at Pittsburg and elsewhere today, but their success was purchased at the price of their fathers' failure at Loudon yesterday. Our country is rich and prosperous, but the fathers paid dear for it with their lives. It was theirs to suffer: it is ours to succeed. It may be ours also to appreciate. Nobler can no man be than he who lays down his life for another, but scarcely less noble is he who fully appreciates such a sacrifice. May it be with us, like fathers like sons. May this commemoration be a genuine tribute of appreciation that we pay to the memory of a noble ancestry, who counted not their lives dear unto themselves, and may we prove the genuineness of our tribute, by lives as unselfish as theirs, in the discharge of our duties to our day and generation.



1953 View of Main Street, Ft. Loudon



1904 View of Main Street, Ft. Loudon

FORT LOUDON FACTS

by Harry E. Foreman

Note. This brief resume of early settlers has been taken from "Fort Loudon Sidelights" a contemplated book on local history by the writer.

Many early families which participated in the early Indian outrages, the Black Boys Affair of 1765, and other stirring incidents were: Barr, James, Wilson, Owen, Perry, Brown, Armstrong, Patton, Welch, Harris, Coxe, Jordon, Carrol, Taylor, Scott, Donelson and others.

A local family of Ft. Loudon is the Barr family since many of the stirring events of the Ft. Loudon Drama occurred at the Barr place. Here occurred the Indian fights of 1755, the fight of March 1, 1756 (The Indians threw their dead into the house and burned it). Here also, Searj. McGlashen's men wounded James Brown, May 6, 1765. The Thomas Barr, or Widow Barr place, is the Mellott farm as viewed up Walker's Run from the new bridge.

The William Wilson warrant of 1737 is important since most of the older part of the town is on part of this land. Major James Wilson and wife Isabelle Barr, also several of Thomas Barr's sons who were slain by the Indians are buried near Barr's Fort in Westmoreland County.

The Mesech James warrant bears the date 1748. Part of present Ft. Loudon goes back to this warrant. This land passed to General James Chambers and later to H. Easton. The James buildings were destroyed November 1, 1755 and Isaac and William James were carried off by the Indians.

The Harris family played an important role in Ft. Loudon History but with the exception of the Searj. McGlashen, Black Boys Affair of May 6, 1765 little has ever been written concerning this deserving family. Smith's Black Boys flogged the drivers and killed some of the horses of Spear's Pack Train here. Searj. McGlashen forced Rowland Harris Sr., to guide the soldiers to the Widow Barr's where the much over capitalized first firing on the King's troop occurred. Samuel Harris applied for land in 1734 and the Warrant was secured in 1737. (This is the earliest application discovered by the writer). Four Harris names are found on the 1751 tax list. Rowland Harris owned all the land from the Mesech James line to beyond the mouth of Township Run. The Harris Grist Mill was one of the earliest on the Conococheague. The Harris Tannery survived for many years. The McKee and Wertime places were early Harris sites.

Samuel Perry and a boy were killed by the Indians

November 8, 1756. One report says Perry lived in the mouth of Path Valley. This report is probably correct because there was some Perry land above the Rowland Harris warrant. John Perry was with James Smith, Samuel Owens and two others, November 16, 1765, when Smith seized Maj. Grant. A Cumberland County land entry of 1765 lists a William Perry at the Forks of the Road from Ft. Loudon to Bedford. Annas Perry, widow of Samuel Perry, and sons sold out in 1773.

The James Brown who was wounded by Searj. McGlashen at the Widow Barr's May 6, 1765 was evidently the same James Brown of the noted Brown family which lived near Cowan's Gap near the present Stumpy Run road. Allen Brown ran the inn and trading post after Anthony Thompson.

John Welch was one of the four bondsmen of William McDowell III, who was given custody of the guns which were seized from James Smith's Black Boys by Searj. McGlashen and held by Maj. Grant. John Welch owned earlier Maxwell land of 1748, and some Clark land of 1753. This land stretched from the Conococheague to Parnell's Knob. Welch's Dam is mentioned and the Shearer Ore Bank was formerly Welch land.

Samuel Owens, a companion of James Smith in 1765, was a member of the Owens family which secured warrants in 1738. The early Owens land was near Clay Lick and in the Little Cove. Mary Owens was the wife of Mesech James.

Ft. Loudon was built on the Matthew Patton warrant of 1744. Patton's buildings were burned by the Indians, November 1, 1755. The widow Jordan and a Clark girl were captured Sunday morning November 2, 1755. The Jordan home was at the spring at the Burkholder place on the slope of Jordan's Knob. The Widow Coxe's house was burned Feb. 11, 1756 and John and Richard Coxe were carried off by the Indians. The Coxe land was below the Widow Jordan on the Conococheague. Broad Run flowed through some of the Coxe land.

Hugh Carrol (Kerrei) was killed by the Indians Nov. 8, 1756. The Carrol land was on the creek and was later Peter Stenger land. The Taylor family figured in the James Smith Affair. They lived on the creek below Wilson's near Fort Loudon Site. The Donelson's, who lived on and near Broad Run, were in the early affairs as were the McConnells, who lived on the creek below the bridge. The Armstrongs, who saved young Barr's life from the scalping knife, also lived on the Conococheague near Patton's as

did Peter Rhoademil. Martha Rhodermer was the first wife of Conrad Stenger.

The Scott family is one of the oldest in Peter's township. The Widow Scott is listed in 1751. John Scott, who served under Capt. Hugh Mercer, was missing at Kittanning in August 1756. Archibald Scott was in the James Smith Affair. Of course everyone knows of Thomas Scott and his son Col. Thomas A. Scott who was Assistant Sec., of War under Lincoln and who was President of the Pennsylvania Railway System.

The writer regrets that space permits such a meager account of the families mentioned and wishes to convey his best wishes to the descendants of the equally deserving families not mentioned such as: Potts, Beaver, Easton, Stenger, Mullin, McKelvy, Dickey, McDowell, Harding, Wright, Freley, Kinkade, Smith, Snyder, Pimm, Cowan, Shearer, McCullough and many others.

We are publishing Mr. Neil H. Swanson's speech for two reasons, —(1) So Pennsylvanians may know that the investigations of this eminent historian reveal that Pennsylvania has two more Revolutionary War firsts. First that many of us may not have learned about heretofore. They are:— (a) The first American blood in the Revolutionary War was shed in Pennsylvania. (b) The first two British forts were captured here.

(2) So Americans may learn what magnificent, spiritual, social and financial success our system of personal freedom and private enterprise made it possible for one penniless father and his son to achieve.

We all, and the rest of the world as well, need to realize more fully the myriad benefits conferred by our system of private enterprise and personal freedom. The greater and quicker this realization, the sooner universal peace and freedom will be freed from peril.

Very respectfully,

President.

●



New Bridge Looking East Into Ft. Loudon



1953 View of Ft. Loudon Public Square

**In Pennsylvania was Spilled The First American Blood
In Pennsylvavnia were captured the first Two British Forts
In The American Revolution!**

an address by

NEIL H. SWANSON

Novelist, Historian, and Executive Editor and Vice Pres.
of the Baltimore Sun, to
The Society of The War of 1812
in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
February 16, 1952
Union League, Philadelphia, Pa.

I am glad to be here, I am, in fact, proud to be here to address you on this occasion. And there is a particular and very personal reason for my sense of pride and pleasure. I am a first generation American. I am the son of an immigrant. I am the son, if you please, of an European peasant.

My father was born in the little fishing town of Marstrand, on the coast of Sweden. The family was very poor. There was one winter, at least, when he and his brothers, his sister and his parents lived in the stable with the cows to share the warmth, because there was no money to buy fuel. When he was eleven years old, he left home to come to America alone. He wore his mother's shoes because he had never had any shoes of his own. He made his way across the Mississippi in the days just after the Civil War, and became a bound-boy in Missouri, when Missouri was still truly a frontier.

That may surprise you. But it is a fact. We are much closer to the past than many of us realize. Within the memory of living men, immigrants were still bound out for years of labor as indentured servants to repay their passage money to this New World, to the land of opportunity, the land of justice and equality, just as they were in the days before the Revolution.

So, you see, when I write about indentured lives in "The Judas Tree," and in "Unconquered," and in "The Silent Drum," I am not writing about something far away and long ago, impersonal and unreal, I am writing about something very near, and real and personal.

My father worked ten years to buy his freedom, worked five more to earn a team of horses, and then worked ten more years in the Minnesota logging country to earn

money with which to buy his own farm, to buy for himself a piece of his adopted country.

He bought raw land, cleared it with his own ax, hacked and dug the stumps out, broke the sod and planted, with only the slight help that a boy eight years old could give him. This is no Horatio Alger story. It is not a success story, not in terms of money. He died a poor man. But he was a proud one.

I can never forget his fierce pride that he was an American, that he had inalienable rights and an inalienable dignity, that he was free, that on election day his ballot counted just as much as any other man's.

To me, his son, America has also been a land of opportunity and promise, of a promise kept beyond full measure, pressed down, heaped up, running over.

It gave me an education, and a good one, without cost. It sent me to college, almost without cost, at a great land grant university.

When war came in 1917, it gave me the right to compete on equal terms for a commission in the Army. I have had the honor and the privilege of commanding a company of United States infantry in action.

America has given me the opportunity to write and publish eight books, and no man could tell me that I must say this or that I must not say something else.

It has given me the opportunity of becoming the Executive Editor and an officer of a great publishing institution that is invariably included in any list of the world's four or five outstanding newspapers.

And it has given me a wife whose family roots go deep into the making of America, three hundred years deep into the soil of Maryland and Virginia.

I know very well that this is not a remarkable story. The only thing that is remarkable about it is that it is not remarkable at all. It has been repeated hundreds of thousands of times in this country, but only in this country.

I owe this country more than I could hope to pay in ten times the longest life-time. Now I hope you will understand why I am glad and proud to be here to talk with you about the glory of our beginnings as a nation. As an author and an editor in trying to interpret the making and the meaning of America, I am attempting to make a small down payment on the debt I owe.

Today we are troubled and indignant because some of our allies persist in doing business with our enemies behind the Curtain. We are angered by those men of little scruple who, for profit, devise ways and means of shipping

militarily useful goods into Red China, to be used against our own men.

History has a strange, persistent habit of repeating itself. And when we talk about history, we might as well be sure that we have got the facts straight. There are certain facts about the beginnings of the Revolutionary War that cannot be disputed.

On March 9th, 1765, the Pennsylvania frontier rose in armed rebellion under the leadership of James Smith against a British military government that condoned the shipment of knives and hatchets, guns and ammunition to the Indians across the Alleghenies. Three hundred strong, the frontiersmen laid siege to Fort Loudon and its garrison of kilted veterans of the Black Watch Regiment, who a few months earlier, had stormed Morro Castle at Havana.

In the two preceding years, the Cumberland Valley had experienced the horrors of barbarian invasion. It had seen its homes go up in flames, its children's brains dashed out against the cabin walls, its women stolen. The Pontiac Conspiracy had swept the Pennsylvania frontier back from the Allegheny River almost to Carlisle.

Now, the settlers of the Valley were convinced, and with good reason, that the British military government was allowing favored traders to ship arms and ammunition to the savage nations under false permits describing them as military stores.

The "Countrymen", that is to say, the back country farmers, tried to stop the traffic by appeal, and protest, and petition. But appeal and protest got them nowhere. Outraged and desperate, they took up arms to put a stop to the infamy.

They risked the hangman's noose as rebels, not only to protect their homes against a potential danger, but also to defend a principle of decency and justice.

The first combat between British troops and American colonials in armed rebellion did not take place in Massachusetts in 1775. It did not take place in North Carolina in 1771. The first American blood was not spilled on the village green at Lexington, not at Concord Bridge, nor at the Alamance in North Carolina.

The first armed collision between Americans and the British regulars took place in Pennsylvania in 1765, ten years before Lexington and Concord and six years before the Battle of the Alamance. The first American rebel to take a British soldier's bullet in his body was a Pennsylvanian. His name was James Brown.

His blood stained the spring grass of a meadow near the north end of a region called "The Pastures" on the

West Branch of the Conococheague Creek in the Cumberland Valley.

There a platoon of the famous Black Watch Regiment had taken refuge in Widow Barr's cabin while a swarm of Pennsylvanians in hunting shirts surrounded them. Bullets smacked the log walls and knocked out the dry mud chinking. The platoon surrendered.

The date was May 6th, 1765, two months after the beginning of the Rebellion in Pennsylvania. The first bloodshed of American armed resistance to tyranny had ended in a small, decisive victory.

For six more months Jim Smith's little army of backwoodsmen besieged the log stockade at Fort Loudon. On November 10th, 1765, the British flag came down. The British garrison marched out. The first British fort ever taken by Americans was occupied by Pennsylvania farmers with their shirt tails hanging out. Strange, isn't it, how often the histories are wrong?

You won't find the Pennsylvania rebellion in the history books. Instead, they will tell you that Ethan Allen was the first American to take a British fort when he stormed Ticonderoga on May 10th, 1775. He wasn't first. He wasn't even second. He was third.

Jim Smith at Fort Loudon was first. Jim Smith was also second.

For four years after the surrender of Fort Loudon the rebellion smouldered in the Cumberland. And on September 12th, in 1769, Jim Smith with eighteen of his Black Boys stormed Fort Bedford in a dawn attack. They took it without firing a shot, and made prisoners of its whole garrison of British regulars of the Royal Irish regiment.

Jim Smith was not only the leader of the Pennsylvania rebellion, and he was not only a Colonel of Pennsylvania Militia in the Revolution. He also volunteered, as an old man to fight in the War of 1812. He was living in Kentucky then, and he set out to join our army at Detroit. Somewhere along the road he heard that a poltroon, who had the rank of general, had raised the white flag and surrendered. There was no army left to join. Heartsick, Jim Smith turned home. But it seems to me that that last, lonely march of his entitled him to a place of honor in the annals of his country and of the Society of the War of 1812.

Pennsylvania takes great pride in two of its shrines of liberty. It cherishes two of the nation's holiest memorials to sacrifice and courage in the establishment and the defense of an ideal, its Independence Hall, its Valley Forge. But it has chosen to neglect and to forget its earliest shrine of all!

Today, Fort Loudon, the first British fort ever taken

by Americans in arms, the scene of America's first rebellion against British military government, exists only as a small stone marker half buried in the side yard of a farmhouse on the West Branch of the Conococheague Creek. Not even the monument erected in the village of Fort Loudon so much as mentions the long siege of Fort Loudon or the storming of Fort Bedford.

The oldest cradle of American liberty and the one that is peculiarly Pennsylvania's own, has been abandoned and forgotten.

There is a movement, just beginning, to correct that paradoxical and shameful situation. It is a movement, among a few patriotic people in the Cumberland Valley, to restore the stockade of Fort Loudon, to establish it as a perpetual memorial to the men who there risked their lives for a principle of decency and justice.

I dare hope the Society of the War of 1812 in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will think it proper to offer its powerful influence in support of that restoration. Jim Smith in heart and deed was really one of your kind of people.

On the foundation of liberty, equality and individual dignity, we have created in this country, the most successful, the most comfortable, the most luxurious civilization the world has ever known. We must not forget, however, that Cadillacs and television sets are by-products.

We dare not forget that the main product is still personal liberty, even handed and impartial justice, equality of opportunity, and the dignity of the individual.

We dare not forget that in the very daybreak of their national existence, the American people instinctively asserted the ideal that has been and is their genius as a nation: the will to share their liberty with others.

Mark those words. Not a passive willingness to share, but a will to share— a positive, courageous and unselfish will. It is a quality that partakes of God.

That essence of the American ideal was set down on paper on May 24, 1774, when the people of Talbot County (Md.) resolved to act "as friends to liberty and the general interests of mankind." Mark those words also if you will: "the general interests of mankind."

If all the world could understand that truth about America, peace and freedom would not stand in peril!

But the world does not know nor comprehend that truth. It little realizes the amazing capacity of this American people to choose with clear, unfrightened eyes the road of sacrifice and danger in defense of principles and ideals. To me, that quality in the American people is the great intangible of these critical days. To me, it is more

powerful than the atom bomb. And it is more explosive.

I wonder, sometimes, whether our own statesmen fully understand this quality of the American people and correctly estimate it. I wonder if our own statesmen realize how often the American people, not the government, the people, have instinctively chosen the hard, the dangerous way!

We are a new kind of nation. A nation whose people possess not merely the desire for liberty themselves, not merely the passive willingness to share that liberty with others. but the positive, undaunted will to share the price such liberty demands.



METHODIST CHURCH

●

The Fort Loudon Methodist Church dates its organization from 1826, at which time the old church building now long since in ruins in the western section of the town was erected on the land having been purchased from Mr. John Mullan. Some of the early members of the congregation were the Mileses, Hendersons, Statlers, Burkholders, and Duffields. (History of Franklin County).

The old church was a frame building and was located on land now owned by Mr. George Vance, opposite the old "Upper Schoolhouse" now tenanted by Mrs. Emma Murray.

The present church was built in 1880, and has served us since. Due to crowded conditions in the church school

the official board voted in October 1942 to have a special building fund offering the first Sunday of each quarter.

In August 1952 the construction of the basement was begun, including installation of two oil furnaces and construction of rest rooms and space for two Sunday school classes. After completion of the basement, the sanctuary was remodeled. Rededication services held July 19, 1953.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

TRUSTEES

Guy Hollenshead	Mrs. Alcesta Lininger	
Andrew Bard	Miss Helen Lininger	
Boyd Bard	Walter Dinsmore	
George Keefer	Jacob Zeis	Ralph Rosenberry

STEWARDS

Mrs. Alcesta Lininger	Mrs. Harold Kriner
Miss Helen Lininger	Mrs. Pauline Harrison
Jacob Zeis	Mrs. E. L. Donithen
Miss Maggie Lininger	Mrs. Guy Hollenshead
Sherman St. Clair	Miss Ruth Lininger
Ralph Rosenberry	

Church School Superintendent	Financial Secretary
Ralph Rosenberry	Mrs. Guy Hollenshead

Treasurers	Organists
Penevolence: Jacob Zeis	Miss Joan Rosenberry

Current Expense: Miss H. Lininger. Mrs. Ralph Rosenberry

Building Fund: Mrs. A. Lininger

Pianist— Miss Nancy Morris

PRESIDENT

Youth Fellowship— Sherman St. Clair
W. S. C. S.— Mrs. E. L. Donithen

MEN OF MARK IN THE LIFE OF FORT LOUDON

by John G. Palmer, Greencastle, Pa., Route 2

In commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the laying out of the village of Fort Loudon and of the stirring times in the history of that community from the time the frontier fort was built in 1752, it is fitting that we review the lives of some of the gallant men and women who so nobly contributed to the civic life of the locality.

Teachers, lawyers, farmers, physicians, business men, men and women of note, from all walks of life, have come from this community.

I would recall to memory three distinguished lawyers, all born in the village of Fort Loudon who achieved great success and rose to eminence in their chosen profession: W. S. Stenger, George M. Stenger, his brother, and William Stenger Hoerner who was the Stenger brother's nephew.

Nor must we fail to recall the name of the noted young physician, Dr. Will McClintock, who lost his life in the over zealous pursuit of medical knowledge, dying as a young man, with brain fever induced by overstudy. Also the name of Matthew Patton born on the site of the old fort and his son, Elias Patton. They were successful business men and sterling citizens. Peter Stenger was another Ft. Loudon boy who achieved great success in the business world and prominence in the political and social life of his community. We recall William S. Mullen who held a clerical position with the H. C. Frick Steel Corporation for many years and rose to prominence in that Corporation. Many teachers both men and women of high repute have come from Fort Loudon.

Likewise has Ft. Loudon done her full share on the military side. Fort Loudon boys have gone forth to "do and die" in all the conflicts where the defense of a liberty was at stake. They have upheld the nation's honor and carried forward the flag of freedom, in every clime, in every war, from the Indian War to the current action of the United Nations, when and wherever their services were needed. Some of her sons were "Black Boys" under James Smith at the capture of Fort Loudon and Fort Bedford. On many a bloody battlefield they poured out their red blood that freedom might live.

When the War between the States consulsed our glorious country and cast its black shadow of gloom and despair over our fair land; when treason was rampant and the banner of freedom was trailed in the dust, the contri-

butions of Fort Loudon to the legions that fought for the preservation of the Union was large and creditable to the patriotism of her people. Of note was the 43rd Regiment, 1st Artillery, Battery A. This regiment was organized at Camp Curtin under the command of Col. Charles T. Campbell in May 1861. Company B was commanded by Capt. Hezekiah Easton, a native and resident of Fort Loudon. This was strictly a Ft. Loudon company. In the desperate charge at the battle of Gaines Mill, June 26, 1862, Capt. Easton with many of his men was killed.

What has been said of New England's gallant citizen soldiery can with equal pride be said of Fort Loudon's brave sons.

The land is holy where they fought
And holy where they fell;
For by their blood that land was bought,
The land they loved so well,
Then glory to that valiant band,
The honored saviors of the land.

Thomas Alexander Scott, President of the Pennsylvania Railroad System, Assistant Secretary of War, under Lincoln, was born in Fort Loudon, in the house now owned as the "Eagle Hotel," December 28, 1823. When but a lad his father died, and upon his mother devolved his training for the arduous conflict of life. When but a youth he became a clerk in a store in Mercersburg. At the age of 17 he went to Columbia, Pennsylvania to clerk in the office of his brother-in-law, James Patton, who was collector of tolls of roads and canals for the state of Pennsylvania. From Columbia he went to Philadelphia and soon became station agent at Duncansville, the point of transfer between the state canals and the Pennsylvania Railroad. In discharging the duties of this position he displayed such remarkable talent that in 1852 when the Pennsylvania Railroad was completed through to Pittsburgh, he was made Third Assistant Superintendent, in charge of the western division. Six years later, he was promoted again, becoming General Superintendent. On the 21st of March 1860, he was made First Vice President continuing as such until June 1, 1874, when he was chosen President of the entire Pennsylvania System, retaining this position until his death.

Col. Scott was also a staunch patriot. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was appointed by Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania as a member of his staff with the rank of Colonel and placed in charge of the transportation of troops and military supplies for the state. He was master of ceremonies in the safe conduction of Abraham Lincoln to Washington the night before his inauguration. On

April 21, 1861, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of War for transportation of troops and was in charge of all railways. He resigned as Assistant Secretary of War late in 1862. Col. Scott was a man of wonderful versatility, and endowed with all the qualifications of a great leader of men. He helped the great transcontinental line which made the western deserts blossom as the rose and gave new impetus and life to our whole national industrial life. He died at Lansdowne, near Philadelphia, May 21, 1881.

William Shearer Stenger was born in Fort Loudon, February 13, 1840. At an early age he attended the common schools of his native town, later pursued his studies at the Mercersburg Academy. In 1854 he went to Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Penna., from which institution he was graduated in 1858, delivering the Valedictorian address. He studied law and was admitted to the Bar of Franklin County in 1860. He then entered upon the practice of law in Chambersburg. In 1862 when but 22 years of age, he was elected District Attorney of Franklin County, Pennsylvania by a large majority, as a Democrat in what was supposed to be a safe Republican district. In 1865 he was re-elected and again in 1868, serving until 1871, a period of nine years. In 1869 before his third term had expired, he in company with John M. Cooper and Augustus Duncan, purchased the Valley Spirit newspaper and edited it until 1876. He was elected to the Forty-fourth and forty-fifth Congress, March 4, 1875, and March 3, 1879. He then resumed the practice of his profession in Chambersburg, and later in Philadelphia. On the election of Robert E. Pattison, a Democrat, Governor of Pennsylvania in 1882, he became Secretary of the Commonwealth in his Cabinet, serving from 1883 to 1887. He then removed permanently to Philadelphia and became Executive Officer of the Philadelphia Record. He died in Philadelphia March 29, 1918. William S. Stenger can be considered Fort Loudon's most distinguished and talented citizen. He was distinguished for not only his ability but for his integrity as well.

James Patton, another worthy son of Fort Loudon, was born there on July 11, 1804 and died in Carlisle on August 6, 1880. He was the son of Matthew Patton who was born on the site of old Fort Loudon in 1776 and who was the leading citizen of Peters Township, a Justice of the Peace and Associate Judge of Franklin County.

James Patton was in 1827 chosen Major of the 1st Battallion 118th Regiment, Pennsylvania Militia. In 1839 he was appointed by Governor Porter as Collector of Tolls of Road and Canals at Columbia, Penna. He was active in promoting the transportation system of the state which

resulted in the organization of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. In fact he is the one who started Thomas A. Scott on his great career. He became prominent politically and acquired considerable wealth. He married Harriet A. Scott, a sister of Thomas A. Scott. The bodies of James Patton and Harriet Scott Patton rest beneath a handsome monument in the cemetery adjoining the Lutheran Church in Fort Loudon.

John F. Hassler, famous steeple jack, was born in Fort Loudon in 1880. His grandmother was Martha Stenger, a sister of William S. Stenger. He was educated in the schools of his native village. He was a veteran of the Spanish American War. He was a Mason of high repute. He became the Dean of Steeple Jacks and a widely known climber and daredevil. For a period of 50 years and until his death his work was high above the crowds.

In 1916 and again in 1920 he danced on the rim of William Penn's statue on the Philadelphia City Hall and swung from a rope tied to Penn's outstretched hand. In early life he earned the reputation of a "human fly". In 1910 he climbed down the full length of the 18 story Morris Building on Chestnut Street in Philadelphia. He worked on church steeples, smoke stacks and anything that was dangerous. He died in Philadelphia on July 22, 1952 and lies buried in Stenger Hill cemetery, Fort Loudon.

John Adam Ryder was born February 29, 1852, in Peters Township not far from Fort Loudon. As a small boy he was greatly interested in plants and animals. He was a reserved boy so much so, that his early teacher said of him "that he went to school six weeks and never said a lesson." But with sympathetic teachers who encouraged him in his self-directed investigations, he soon forged ahead. He learned the German language through his mother. He attended the Mercersburg College for a short time. After a few years of successful teaching in the public schools he received a scholarship at the Academy of Natural Science in Philadelphia. He studied there six years. In six years of this work in the field and at the National Museum he produced 79 valuable papers and studies. In 1886 he accepted the Chair of Comparative Histology and Embryology at the University of Pennsylvania and held this position until death.

He was a noted biologist and became world famous. His investigations were of great commercial value in the artificial propagating of food fishes and the oyster. He could read French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Danish, Swedish and Russian. He died March 26, 1895, world famous.

General James Chambers, while not a native of Fort Loudon, he was a long time resident there and his life's

doings were closely entwined with the history of Fort Loudon. This Revolutionary War soldier hero was born in Chambersburg, June 5, 1743. In 1775 he became captain of a company of riflemen, the first from the Conococheague settlement to assist in the campaign at Boston. He was in all the battles in and around Plowed Hill. He was in most of the battles of 1776-1778. He was with Washington at Valley Forge, with him at Brandywine, Germantown, Monmouth, Bergen Block House, July 19, 1780. He was wounded at Brandywine. He was an outstanding military figure and retired from the service on January 17, 1781.

Henceforth his life's activities are a part of Fort Loudon's history. He was a pioneer in the iron industry of Franklin County and upon his retirement from the military services in 1781, he built and conducted what was known as "Loudon Forge" above the village, where he had already established himself a home. He conducted a thriving iron industry. His son, Benjamin, assisted him in the business which was quite successful until the adversities which followed some years after the Revolution. A period of great inflation followed and General Chambers was crippled financially and forced to suspend business.

He was a Justice of the Peace for Peters Township, Franklin County and dispensed justice to the citizens of Fort Loudon. He was County Commissioner of Franklin County 1793-1796, Associate Judge 1795-1805. When the Whiskey Insurrection broke out he was commissioned a Brigadier General and put in command of the Third Brigade. He helped quell the Insurrection quickly. General Chambers died at Loudon Forge on April 25, 1805, weakened by his long military service and broken fortunes after a life of great credit to himself and to Fort Loudon.

James Smith "The First Rebel" of Back Boy fame, while not strictly a native born son of Fort Loudon, was very much in evidence in its early life and history, with his backwoodsmen. He fought and routed the famous Black Watch. He besieged old Ft. Loudon, a provincial fort manned by the British, captured its commander and part of its garrison in the year of 1765 and forced its evacuation ten years before the Battle of Lexington. Many of his thrilling exploits were enacted in and around Fort Loudon. He was thus the commander of the first skirmish that was fought, between the American Rebels and the British and this skirmish was fought not at Lexington and Concord but in the backwoods meadow above old Fort Loudon and near the village of the present Fort Loudon.

The first rebel blood was shed there and the first American Rebel victory was won there.

The life history of James Smith has been portrayed by the pen of Neil Swanson, an editor of the Baltimore Sun, in "His First Rebel." James Smith came of rough stock and was born on the outmost fringe of the frontier in 1737 in a log cabin built unlawfully on Indian lands, where the town of Mercersburg now stands. He lived in the Conococheague Settlement in pre-Revolutionary days having his headquarters near Mercersburg.

James Smith had one of the most picturesque careers in American History. At the age of eighteen he was captured by the Indians and held captive for five years when he made his escape by way of Canada. It took him nearly another year to make his way home by foot. He had been adopted and made a blood brother by the Indians. In 1764 he saw service as a Lieutenant in Bouquet's Expedition. Then came his exploits in the capture of Fort Loudon and later Fort Bedford. He was a member of the Continental Congress at Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia. He saw much service in the Revolutionary War and rose to the rank of Colonel. In 1778 he settled in Kentucky, fought in several Indian campaigns and for ten years represented Bourbon County, Kentucky in its General Assembly. He died in 1811 or 1812.

In addition to those men and women of Fort Loudon who have left their mark upon history, we must not forget those un-numbered hundred who by industry and upright living have helped carry forward for 150 years the contributions of the old town to the epic story of America.

JAMES BUCHANAN

By John L. Finafrock

(Delivered at "Wheatland," Buchanan's Historic Home West of Lancaster, Saturday, April 27, 1940)

As one passes westward beyond St. Thomas he can see on his right a prominent knob or end of the mountain. This is the oldest named spot in this section of the county. Since 1734 it has been called Parnell's Knob from the first white man who settled in the beautiful flat country below it. During the Civil War this Knob was used by the Union Forces as a signal station connected by heliograph with Bolivar's Heights at Harpers Ferry. The Lincoln Highway cuts across its base; and from this promontory the site of old Fort Loudon may be seen at a bend of the west Conococheague about a mile to the south. Fort Loudon was a noted stronghold in the French and Indian War. The old military road to Fort Duquesne or Ft. Pitt passed a little to the north of the present Highway, curved around Parnell's Knob and Jordan's Knob west of it and turned northward through a part of Path Valley and then westward through Cowan's Gap. Over this road went Pennsylvania's supplies for Braddock. Forbes' Expedition that took Ft. Duquesne in November 1758 passed by this route. Later in Pontiac's War, Col. Henry Bouquet's famous expedition with many of Forbes' Highlanders on its way westward encamped for a while near Fort Loudon. The famous Black Watch was with Bouquet.

Near the Buchanan Highway in Cove Gap at a place called Stony Batter four miles south of Fort Loudon, in 1791 James Buchanan, Pennsylvania's only President, was born. A large monument marks the spot. In Mercersburg six miles south of Ft. Loudon, is the house that was his later home, as is also that of his niece, Harriet Lane, who presided over the White House when Buchanan was president. On campus at Mercersburg Academy is the cabin that was his birthplace.

James Buchanan, the father of the President, arrived in Philadelphia in 1783. He was twenty-three, had some capital and a great ambition to be a business man. In seeking a location he made his way to the establishment of John Toms in Cove Gap. There was no Fulton County at that time, and Tom's post was west of the Bedford line. The place is now in Franklin County. Here for five years the father was a clerk in Tom's Store at Stony Batter. He had a good English education, and liked the business so well that he purchased the store in 1788. In that same year he married Elizabeth Speer from a valley in the western part

of Adams County. Here they lived for eight years. Elizabeth Speer's home valley is now called Buchanan Valley after her distinguished son.

Many people who visit Stony Batter think it strange that Buchanan and Elizabeth Speer should have settled in that place. Not long ago a very intelligent man who claimed to be related to the Buchanans and who was looking about Stony Batter, asked me, as he looked up through the overhanging trees, 'Why do you think any one would want to live in a place like this?' At least, that is what he meant in polite English. I went to much trouble to explain to him that in 1791 when the President was born, Stony Batter was as much in the world as a prosperous town on the Pennsylvania R. R. would be today.

In 1761, it was decreed that a bridle path should be constructed over the mountain from Cove Gap, or as it was then called, Larraby's Gap. The road was graded broad enough for wagons along the end of the shale mountain as far as Stony Batter, where the actual bridle path began. The trail from Stony Batter led to McConnellsburg, turned northward beyond Knobsville, then through Hustontown, to the left at Waterfall into Wells Valley then upward along the mountain side to the top of Sideling Hill near the course of the present Lincoln Highway.

It was soon seen that the end of the wagon road was a fine location for a trading post; and when James Buchanan came, John Toms was in charge of a very prosperous and, for the frontier, well-established business. That the elder Buchanan purchased it after five years experience in it is very good evidence that it was a prosperous enterprise.

I explained further that all the many kinds of merchandise needed in Bedford and Westmoreland counties, and in the Pittsburgh country passed by Tom's place at Stony Batter. Some was placed on horses at the shopping point, but the greater amount was brought to the end of the road in wagons and then placed on horses as soon as the pack trains could be organized. Even salt for the western part of the state was packed from there; and in an old Pittsburgh paper it is stated that it missed the issue of last week because the horses had not arrived with the paper from Chambersburg. Chambersburg was early noted for the manufacture of paper. It seems the packs for carrying the paper were made up at the mill, taken eighteen miles to Stony Batter, and then after the horses were fed and rested, the train started on the long trip of one hundred forty miles to Pittsburgh. With all my explanation I fear the descendant of the Buchanans was not convinced that his ancestors chose a good place in which to live. It seems that it was not Toms but the Buchanans

who named the place "Stony Batter." Miss Ann Buchanan once went to Ireland to look up her ancestry. She told Mrs. Charles W. McLaughlin, who now owns the old home, that Stony Batter was the name of the Buchanan home in the north of Ireland. It is said that work on the new bridle path began promptly, and it was much used as soon as it was opened.

Those of you, who have read the "First Rebel" or James Smith's own story, will remember that it was thru Stony Batter when the new route was less than four years old, that the great trading firm of Baynton, Wharton and Morgan of Philadelphia hurried its twenty pack horses loaded with Indian goods for the Illinois country before the trade was opened after Pontiac's War. This was twenty-three years before James Buchanan purchased the place from John Toms.

James Buchanan hired his brother-in-law, James Speer, to help in the business which prospered greatly. Ledgers of an earlier period show that there was a demand for many kinds of goods from the East while the more crude products from the west were packed to Buchanan's place. Men engaged in transportation had to be cared for and the wagoners were no doubt, good customers. The cleared space was probably ten acres or more in extent; and in it there would be much stir of busy men making up pack trains, storing goods in the warehouses or loading the wagons for Baltimore or places nearer by. There could not be regular schedules. Goods would have to be stored until horses were available. A deed to the tract names 100 acres of land, a dwelling, and warehouses.

In spite of the fact that these things are generally known many people still regard James Buchanan, the elder, as one of the first Scotch-Irish immigrants who came fifty years before not after the Revolution.

April 23, 1791, James was born at Stony Batter. Five years later in the fall of 1796 the family removed to Mercersburg. Here two years later the father started a store and prospered greatly all the rest of his life. He built one of the finest brick houses in Mercersburg. It is now included in the James Buchanan Hotel; and he also acquired what was known as the Dunwoodie Farm. He was very proud of this great tract of more than 300 acres of deep rich, limestone land and fine timber. It adjoined the large farm of Governor Findlay's father. The President held this place until 1863, when he sold it to Jeremiah Black.

Young James received a fair elementary education probably from his mother. His first teacher was James R. Sharon, a student of divinity under Dr. John King, next a Mr. McConnell, and later Dr. Jesse Magaw. These men

taught him Latin and Greek. Dr. Magaw later married a sister of James.

In the fall of 1807 James entered Dickinson College. One of the students with James under his several teachers in Mercersburg was Susan Spangler. Susan married a Mr. Palsgrove, and lived to a good old age. She liked to talk of "Jimmie" Buchanan, her school mate, and of his departure for college. It was known that James was to leave on a certain morning, and his schoolmates were out to see him go. She said that, as James and his father passed along the street, she took off her apron and waved it as she called "Good-bye, Jimmie, good-bye!" Jimmie waved, said, "Good-bye, Susan," and seated behind his father on a horse, Jimmie, sixteen years old started for Dickinson and destiny.

At college young James played many pranks, although he seems to have kept up his studies. Somewhere he writes that the school was without discipline. About the time he was to return in September 1808 he was sitting one sabbath morning with his father, when the father opened a letter, read it with troubled face, handed it to James and left the room. The letter from Dr. Davison, head of Dickinson, who wrote that but for the respect they had for the father, they would have expelled his son James. Having endured to the end of the term, they could not receive him again.

It was a severe blow to James, but he decided to go at once to Dr. John King, the spiritual leader of the community, and a trustee of Dickinson. Dr. King lectured the boy, but promised to help him if James would give the Doctor his word to behave better at College. James promised, was permitted to enter college, and became the leader of his class. In a contest for honors, however, he was given no honor, and was told frankly that it would have a bad effect to give an honor to a student who had shown as little regard for the rules of the school as James had shown. His Society was incensed at this and threatened not to take part in the graduation exercises. But after receiving a kind letter from the faculty James himself gave his oration.

He complained of his disappointment to his father, who wrote him a long answer to comfort him and to tell him he was pleased that James decided to give his oration. In the father's letter there are two rather cynical statements. He says: "The more you know of mankind, the more you will distrust them. It is said the knowledge of mankind and the distrust of them are reciprocally connected."

He also told James if his oration were good sense, James' own work, and well spoken, the audience would not

care whether it was first or last. After graduation James returned to Mercersburg until December 1809, when he went to Lancaster to study law with Mr. Hopkins. He was very fond of the law and of Lancaster.

James Buchanan the elder, died as a result of a driving accident. On June 4, 1821, he with his youngest son, Edward Y. Buchanan, who was then about eleven years old was driving a one-horse wagon into the alley at the home. Just before they reached the turn into the yard something scared the horse. He made too short a turn and upset the wagon. The boy either leaped or was thrown clear of the wagon but Mr. Buchanan, who was busy holding the horse was caught under the wagon. Three days afterwards, on June 7, 1821 he died. He was not quite sixty years old.

Mr. Buchanan's old home community was very proud of him and he had many loyal friends there. While his mother lived he made regular visits to his home town, and returned a number of times when he was Senator. In June, 1852, he was in Franklin County. He tells of trying to persuade an old friend to vote for Pierce, but the friend would not do so because Pierce was nominated by a convention.

In 1856 Mr. Buchanan visited Stony Batter. He and Col. Samuel S. Black were driving from Bedford to Lancaster. When they arrived at Cove Gap village, they tied their horse there and walked up to the old place. A work man, who was coming out of the mountain, recognized Mr. Buchanan, and lost no time to get to the village and declare "Jimmie Buchanan is up there." After a reception at Cove Gap the men visited Mercersburg, Greencastle, and Chambersburg.

During the campaign of 1856, probably on the trip with Col. Black, Mr. Buchanan spoke in Mercersburg from the balcony of Col. Murphy's Hotel. Some men opposed to him persuaded some school boys to call out one of the slanders falsely charged against Mr. Buchanan. Men of both parties were indignant at the occurrence, and when it was learned that one of the boys was being aided in his school by funds furnished by Buchanan, who often gave money to the old school some friends wanted him to withdraw the aid. Mr. Buchanan who was not unacquainted with school boy pranks, spurned the suggestion.

Politics and business, as well as friendship, very often brought James Buchanan to Mercersburg. For many years an old colored woman who lived several miles from Mercersburg and who had nursed James Buchanan as a child was remembered by him. He would buy different things that he knew she could use and have someone take them out to her along with his best wishes.

FORT LOUDON YESTERYEAR AND TODAY

Our very efficient Historian, John Hopkins, and his very able and active 90 year young guide and informant, Joseph R. Haiston, plus interesting facts gleaned from other of our older citizens, have brought to our attention the locations of some of the former Industries and business places that once employed the majority of the male citizens of our village.

Sixteen fitting historic markers are located as near as possible to the former scenes of action. No. 1. Burkholder Cooper Shop where barrels were made, now the very cozy dwelling house of Mr. and Mrs. John Nelling. No. 2. Jonathan Wrights Wagon Maker Shop, stone building located back of the former Miss Hal Wright home, now remodeled into a very nice modernly equipped dwelling house owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Borellis. No. 3. Bill Mullen's Blacksmith Shop, both the Wright Shop and Mullen shop each employed two men regularly and four men during busy seasons, converted to an ice house by G. M.

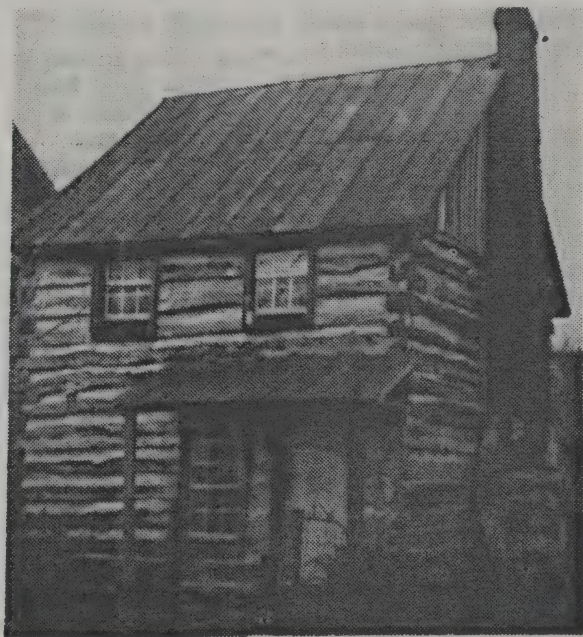


THE EAGLE HOTEL 1904

Stenger. In 1916 the stone ice house was razed and a double dwelling house was built thereon by Mr. and Mrs. Joe S. Rotz, the present owners and occupants of half the house the John Hopkins' family occupying the other half of the house. No. 4. John Mullen's Hotel, a lively place during the building of the South Penn Railroad, many fist fights and riots originated in this building. In 1874 the hotel was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ryder. It has been occupied by three generations of Ryders since that time.

It was the home of Catharine Ryder, the author of our Introductory poem. "Miss Katie" as we all called her, wrote many interesting poems which were published in book form after her death, by her sister Mrs. Anna R. Ellettson. At present it is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Snively Ryder. Mr. Ryder is 90 years young and keeps busy caring for his garden, yard, and several hundred chickens. The North end of this large house was burned Christmas Day 1936, but the remaining seven rooms facing Lincoln Highway are very adequate for modern family needs.

No. 5. James Mullan's two story hotel has grown to a twenty-six room building known for many years as Eagle



One of the oldest houses in our town, dates back to 1749.

Hotel. It is no longer a Hotel but is now known as Lincoln Lodge, having been converted into apartments by the present owners, Mrs. Maude Wigfield and Miss Blanche Keg-
arise. The former lobby and Bar Room of this building are now the Fort Loudon Post Office. No. 6. Easton's Saving Fund Bank, now Velma Vance's grocery store. No. 7. James Starliper's Saddler Shop, now Helen Linger's flower garden. No. 8 Reuben Lewis Blacksmith shop, is now Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Brindle's garden. No. 9, The Michael Deck and Sons' Wagon Making Shop now the

Robinson's Apartments. Four families and Hoch's Meat Market are housed in this building. No. 10, Reuben and Al Snyder's Tailor Shop, later a grocery store, is now a double dwelling house owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jones and tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Hagan. No. 11, Fords Huckster Business where fifteen to twenty persons were employed preparing 400 to 500 fowls for market daily, now the private dwelling house of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rotz. No. 12, Robert Carson's Saddler Shop, is now the private home of Mrs. Elva Reeder. No. 13, Gish's Grist Mill is now the busy Hawbaker Trapping Supply store and printing place of the American Woodsman magazine. No. 14, The oldest house in town dates back to 1749, still occupied and owned by Harry Zeiss.

No. 15, The Old Town Stock, replaced by modern hydrants in back yards of most homes with plenty of water piped into each dwelling house. No. 16, Toll Gate Sites, all dwelling houses today.

Many former industries and businesses have passed out of the picture or have been so transformed as to bear small resemblance of their former condition.

Mrs. Mary Ramer's Candy Shop is now remodeled into a modern family dwelling owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. James Foltz. The John Rotz fork shop location is now the former Band House transformed into Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Tritle's comfortable dwelling house.

The Casper Metz Tailor Shop was for many years our local post office, but the office out grew its facilities here, due to volume of business. The post office has advanced from a fourth class to a second class post office with a postmaster and three postal clerks. The post office was originally known as Loudon, and was established May 3, 1814. The name was changed to Fort Loudon on June 22, 1883. From 1814 to the present time 25 persons have served as postmasters, serving terms ranging from seven months to eighteen years. The present postmaster, Mrs. Isabel Hull, has served since April 1, 1942.

The Hassler Flour Mill became a busy Hosiery Knitting Mill in 1908 employing many of the local women. Later the building was purchased by Dr. Arthur and milk cooling equipment was made here. This industry ceased to be profitable. Manufacturing stopped and today the mill stands idle.

The busy butchershop beside the bridge is now a Ford Garage and Agency conducted by C. E. Detrich & Son.

The upright sawmill conducted by Mr. Stenger along Broad Run has made a very striking change. From a sawmill it was converted to Joe Rotz's Milk Station, Creamery and Butter factory. Later it became J. B. Rotz's Cabinet

Makers Shop and is now a nice dwelling house owned by Raymond Rotz and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Cordell.

Locust Grove where the 1903 Picnic was held is today the location of the Raymond S. Rotz Hatchery and Poultry Farm which is one of the nicest places in our community.

We are such a healthy community that we have not had a resident doctor since Dr. R. Penn Smith enlisted in the Medical Corps of our Army in 1917. Our nearest doctors are located in St. Thomas, Lemasters, Mercersburg.

Neither have we had a resident undertaker since Mr. Millhoff passed away more than fifty years ago. And since most of us go bare headed now, we have no need of millinery shops such as flourished under Bell Lewis, Mrs. Diffenderfer, and Laura Millhoff.

Our once busy South Penn Railroad where four round trips daily to Chambersburg by trains were possible is now



Widow Barr's homestead and the spring where James Brown the first Colonist was killed by the British.

a silent reminder that "Time Changes Things." No passenger trains at all and only an occasional freight train traverses this track.

There are people who pity us because we live in Fort Loudon. "Do not pity us"—we are proud that we are privileged to live in this community for we have here a heritage of which we are justly proud. The examples and inspirations of many former Loudon men and women who have made and are now making most valuable contribu-

tions of their time and talent for the benefit of our fellow-men lead us to high achievements.

I believe Henry W. Longfellow had Fort Loudon folks in mind when he penned his beautiful Psalm of Life. This verse can be for us a challenge.

"Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and departing leave behind us, foot prints on the Sands of Time."

CONTRIBUTING PATRONS AS OF AUG. 1, 1953

Womens Guild of St. Peters Reformed church, Ft. Loudon.
Mr. Blaine Gallagher, Richmond Furnace, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Borellis, Ft. Loudon, Pa.
Miss Grace Hollar and Mrs. Ella Fisher
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gish, Ft. Loudon, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Keefer, Fort Loudon, Pa.
Mrs. Anna E. Shearer, Mt. Joy, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Depuy, Fort Loudon, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Faith, St. Thomas, Rt. 1, Pa.
Mrs. Ruth McLaughlin, Ft. Loudon, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Chalfont, (Record Herald) Waynesboro, Pa.
Isabel Ryder Carpenter, Three Acres, Camp Hill, Pa.
Mr. Leroy G. Killinger, Principal, King St. School, Chambersburg, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Garnet Zeger, Fort Loudon, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lawyer
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne L. Mowrey, 59 W. Queen St., Chambersburg, Pa.
Rev. and Mrs. James W. Moyer, Mercersburg, Pa.
Ethel M. Oisorman, Harrisburg, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Zeger, Ft. Loudon, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Zeger, Ft. Loudon, Pa.
Mr. W. Merle Foreman, 617 W. King St., Chambersburg.
Mr. Allen D. Reynolds, 205 Carnegie Place, Pittsburgh
Mrs. Susan McGaughy, Fort Loudon, Pa.
Mrs. Ella Kegaris, Fort Loudon, Pa.
Mrs. Maude Wigfield, Fort Loudon, Pa.
Mrs. Manifold, Fort Loudon, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Grissinger, McConnellsburg, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Snively Ryder, Ft. Loudon, Pa.
Richmond Elevator Co., Richmond Furnace, Pa.
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gress, St. Thomas Rt. 1, Pa.
Fort Loudon State Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Nelling, 1870 Manning Rd., Cleveland 12, Ohio
Mr. Howard Lump, Tiltonville, Ohio
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Wertime, 1208 Scotland Ave., Chambersburg, Pa.

Mr. Edw. Hutton, Chambersburg, Pa.
Mrs. Harold L. Plasterer, Ft. Loudon, Pa.
Mrs. Wm. Repp, 920 Lincoln Way East, Chambersburg
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A Friend.
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NOTES ON THE TOWN OF FT. LOUDON

By Dr. R. G. Mowery, Supt. of Franklin Co. Schools

"A Loudon Town" is mentioned in documents as early as 1756. This name, doubtless was applied to a group of houses that grew up where the Packers Trail entered the mountains or along the new Braddock's Road, so named because Braddock's supplies from Eastern Pennsylvania were to be carried over it. The Eastern part of the present town was laid out late in 1803, at that time Johnston Elliott owned the farm that had been the home of Mesech James at the beginning of the French War. Gen. James Chambers owned the land west of the present hotel property. Mr. Elliott plotted his part of the town; and about January 1, 1804, he offered the lots at twenty dollars cash and one dollar a year ground rent. Rev. James Mullen, states that the lot on which the Eagle Hotel now stands was sold to Phillip Meng, February 1, 1819.

Chambers, who had laid out the western part of the town, March 19, 1805, Gen. James, advertises in the Franklin Repository that "Lots are to be sold in the town of Ft. Loudon on the elevated and beautiful situation, at the place known as Loudon Forge. He speaks of the healthful situation, the beautiful landscape, the possibility of supplying running water to each house. He says it is on the great Road to Pittsburgh from Philadelphia, and Baltimore, and that the great road from Winchester through Williamsport Hagerstown, Greencastle and Mercersburg to the Genesee country, 'will pass this way.' The 'great road' first known of in the advertisement called in a warrant dated January 17, 1794, the new road leading from Gen'l. James Chambers to McConnellsburg. Later, when this road was changed to a 'Pike' the town was quickly built.

Gen. Chambers in his advertisement speaks of Loudon Forge. This furnace and forge was established by Gen. Chambers in 1790. It was north of the present town on the left or eastern bank of the Conococheague. This is now the property of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Rea. Jacob Barger, grandfather of Henry Leininger, was a forge man at this place. Long after it ceased to pound the old hammer was the work of wonder to boys interested in mechanics. In the memory of men still living it was broken up and sold. There was also a forge at the mouth of Bear Valley as early as 1804. Later a furnace was established at this place also. A number of the Peters Township land grants of the period after the Revolution were to members of the Chambers family. Benjamin had several grants adjoining Rowland Harris who lived where the Sandstone

barn stands on the farm of George Vance, now the McKee farm. Col. James had a number of large tracts here and near Cove Gap; Ruhannah had a large grant on Laramy's Run in Cove Gap, and Sara Bella had 300 acres above the north east forge in Bear Valley.

William Pott, who purchased the vast holdings of Ruhannah (Chambers) Colhoun in the southern part of the little cove and established the furnace and forge there, is described in the deed as Ironmaster of Ft. Loudon, as late as June 26, 1816, he secured a warrant for 30 acres adjoining Rowland Harris and other land of William Pott. In the late thirties Beaver and Long held much of the land formerly held by Col. James Chambers, twenty years later in 1858 J. Beaver owned the Ft. Loudon furnace and forge, the Nor East Forge, the upper grist mill, Rowland Harris's place, the property that is now the Vance Inn, and the property west of it on the Lincoln Highway. The Vance Inn property is described as J. Beaver residence in 1867, P and D. Ahl owned the Ft. Loudon furnace, the Rowland Harris place and the property on the mountain above the Vance Inn.

At the McKee farm on the Path Valley road north of the Lincoln Highway the second Rowland Harris had a Tannery. It is said that the present old Sandstone Barn was built at the time of the Revolution in 1779. This makes it one of the oldest barns in Franklin county. Since this was just one year after the Great Tory-Indian scare twenty five miles to the north in Path Valley, it would seem that in building the narrow openings in the walls of this barn, Mr. Harris had other uses in mind besides means of ventilation. In the 1850's the Hollars of Mongul established a Tannery in the south western angle of the west Conococheague and Lincoln highway. Peter Hollar the first purchaser also bought out the Crawford Tannery which was located east of the creek between the highway and Broad Run.

In 1830 more than 8,300 horse drawn vehicles and 3,116 riding horses passed through Loudon. Four years later 42,300 draft horses passed through. The town was long known for its wagons, whips, and gears, one of the makers of the famous blacksnake whips was Andrew J. McCurdy. A man named Kirby had a whip factory. Just before the Civil War, W. McGrath had a whip factory south of the highway in the eastern part of the town. Later John Hollar and Amos F. Hollar ran a saddlery and shoe business. Isaac Donathan was an old shoemaker in the days of high-heeled boots with fancy tops. Jack McCurdy worked for him. In those days men wanted their "Fine" boots to "screech." A customer who came to Donathan's

was very insistent upon the "screech." It is said that is a special effort to please and insure a permanent squeak. Mr. Donathan on this occasion inserted a goose quill in the shank between the soles.

A little west of the home of Amos Hollar on the same side of the street in 1858 was a Cooper's Shop. A Blacksmith shop was in the angle of the highway and Mercersburg road opposite the hotel, then J. Mullen's Inn. Across the pike from the Inn in the quaint brick building with the gable to the street was H. Easton's saving fund. Adjoining it on the west was Peter Stenger's western Inn.

Hezekiah Easton was a very prominent business man at that time. Besides the saving fund he owned the point on which George Stenger later had his home. He built the Gish Mill and the large brick house near it, as well as the house on the farm now owned by Mrs. Dr. Arthur. He was the owner also of one of the farms at the Thomas Barr place, now owned by Winnie Melott and of the Geyer farm near Dickey's. During the Civil War he was commander of the famous Easton's Battery, Company B, 43rd Regiment 1st Artillery, he was killed in the battle of Gaines Mill, on June 27, 1862.

In the earlier times the road from Chambersburg crossed the creek at a point above the present bridge. There was at that time a chain bridge a remarkable piece of work the chains were forged by a man named Arnold, who in his later life lived on the south side of the pike east of the creek, the present new bridge is at least the third at the same point. In January 1886 there was a great flood on the west Conococheague. In the memory of men now living it was second only to the flood at the time that Johnstown was destroyed, the bridge at Loudon was washed away, an iron suspension bridge was then thrown across the creek.

In the late fifties a school house stood just east of Hollar's Tannery. This house was succeeded some time before 1867 by a school house at the cemetery at Stenger's Hill. There was also a house in the western part of the town south of the pike a little west of the point where the path valley road leaves the highway. Late in 1885 the Peters township school board decided to build a four room building so that the schools might be properly graded, the present school lot south of the Eagle Hotel was selected. S. Z. Hawbecker, John Maxheimer and his neighbor, John Cell, all of St. Thomas township were appointed the viewers. They were to meet January 1886. Mr. Hawbecker took the train and was able to reach Ft. Loudon, Messrs. Maxheimer and Cell, who drove reached the Conococheague, but on account of the high water that had washed the

bridge away, they were unable to reach the school ground at that time. Another meeting had to be called. A four room school was built in the summer of 1886, but only three rooms were used for school purposes. The Easter school at Stenger's Hill was continued until 1899, and then it was abandoned. A new one room house was built about a mile east of Loudon on the Lincoln highway, in 1924,



Present Lemasters High School used by Ft. Loudon Pupils.

this school was abandoned and the Loudon school thirty-eight years after it had been built was remodeled to make a four room consolidated school. This four room school still serves eight grades of our Ft. Loudon area pupils. Our teachers 1st grade, Mrs. Clara Doris Saunders; 2nd grade, Mrs. Colestock; 3 and 4 grades, Mrs. Helen Rotz Hopkins; 5th and 6th grades, Mrs. Mildred Funk Rockwell, and 7th and 8th grades, Mr. John Hopkins.

At the School Board meeting June 28, 1906, a motion was made by Joe S. Rotz and seconded by James E. McDowell, that we start a township high school in the upper room of the brick building at Lemasters. This school to be the high for the entire Peters township area.

The first teacher appointed for this high school was Paris B. Anders, at a salary of \$65.00 per month. Anders resigned September 3, 1906. Miss Helen Smith of Carlisle, Pa. was appointed as teacher at a salary of \$60.00 per month for a term of seven months. Miss Smith taught only seven days, her resignation being accepted with regret, and Miss Ellen Stuff was elected for the unexpired term. The first high school included these pupils: Earl Neikirk, Nannie Hays, Ernest Ramsey, Arthur Hays, Homer

Ramsey, Aden Heckman, Paul Lantz, E. Guy Greenawalt, Rhoda Fitz, Ella Heckman, Mary Greenawalt, Sara Diehl, and Mabel Berger. The first class to graduate 1909 numbered two members, Sara Diehl and Mabel Berger.

The high school soon outgrew its one room facility, and in 1922 a new high school was built on the road leading from Marks to Lemasters. This school had an enrollment of 150 in 1953 and graduated a class of 23; six of whom are from Fort Loudon. This Lemaster high school that seemed un-necessarily large in 1922, is now so overcrowded that larger facilities must be provided.

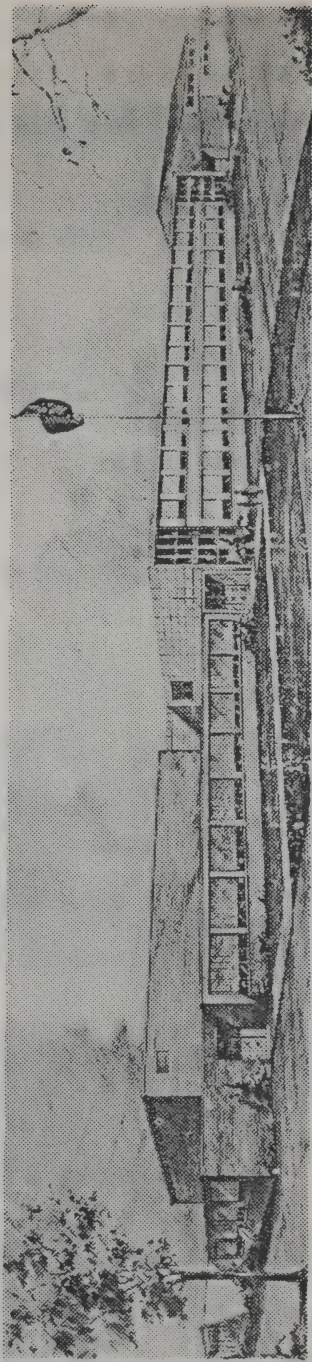
The Peters township school directors have joined with the school directors of Montgomery township, Mercers-



Present Fort Loudon Grade School, Built in 1886

burg Borough, and Warren township to form the Buchanan Jointure and are building now a modern vocational high school to serve the four listed school districts. This school built to serve 800 pupils, with all the latest and best in the present school construction is located along Route 75, one-half mile north of Mercersburg, the extensive grounds (35 acres in all) will furnish athletic fields and recreational areas for a diversity of activities. This building will be dedicated during May 1954, and will open its doors to the pupils of Buchanan Jointure District on Sept. 1954.

Among the names of the students of our first year of Peters Township high school we find E. Guy Greenawalt. Heading the list of Buchanan Jointure faculty we see E. Guy Greenawalt "Supervising Principal." A good example of the life that can be built upon the foundation laid in our High School.



Artist drawing of new Buchanan Area Joint School
Building to be completed in 1954, between Fort Loudon
and Mercersburg, Route 75.

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"To all who have contributed of their time, talents, money or materials, to make this 150th Anniversary Celebration a success, we extend our sincere, Thank You."



A FAREWELL FROM FORT LOUDON

Remember then, our little town
Which Nature's hand has so endowed;
And may her quiet beauty serve
As tonic to each wandering child.

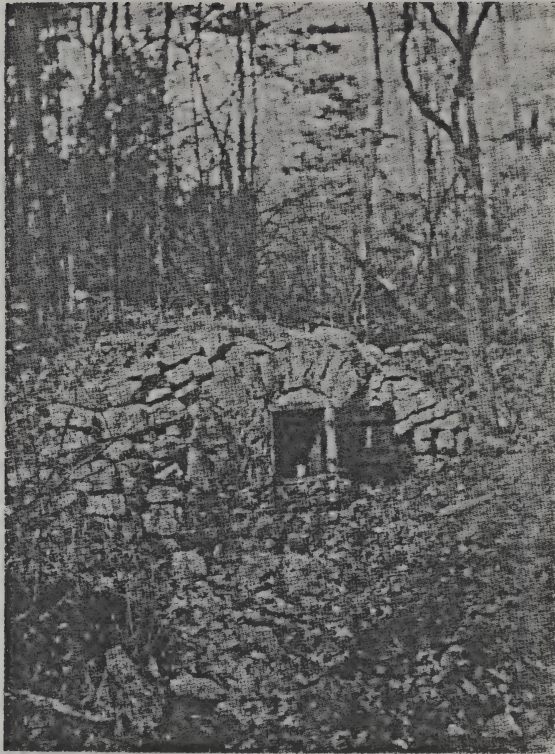
Oh, may the mountains by her be
A guiding force to aid all strife;
And may you find within them strength
To radiate about your life.

Remember too, the by-gone days
When Indians roamed across our lands,
And white men built this little Fort
To keep them safe from savage bands.

Remember how the Colonists,
To gain their freedom from the Crown,
First brought about a bitter war
That started near our little town.

Remember, and let warmth and love
Be found in all your thoughts and deeds,
As you think back to Loudon town,
Recalling all her noble creeds.

Written by
Betty McLaughlin Newman.



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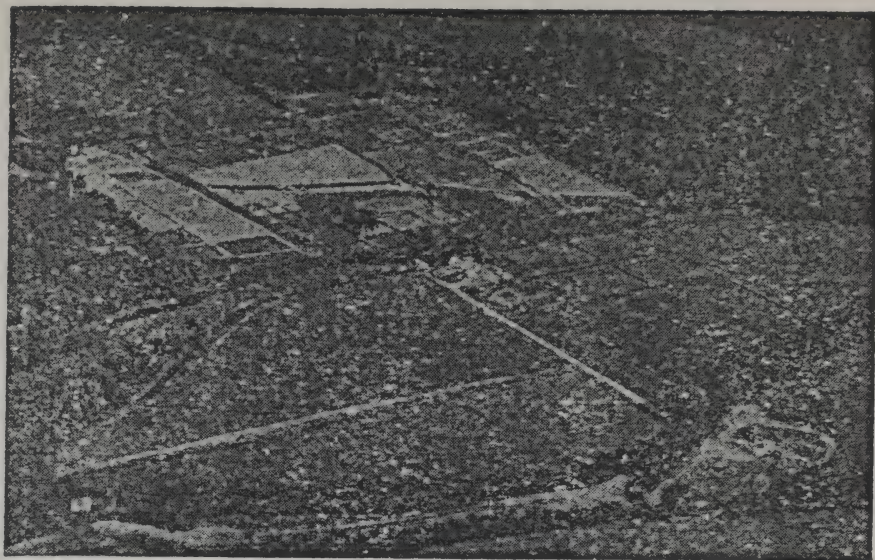
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Mt. Parnell Fisheries, commercial goldfish hatcheries, are located one mile south of Fort Loudon on U. S. Rte. 75.

Production at this location was begun approximately 50 years ago by Martin E. Kefauver. The present owner, E. A. Rice, purchased the fisheries nearly 30 years ago. Production is confined to ornamental fish— which are known for their quality throughout the entire United States and Canada, and bait— which are used by many avid fishermen in the Southern States.

It has been the policy of the present management to keep pace with the demands of its customers. This explains the expansion from just several ponds 30 years ago to nearly 100 today.

Besides being well known for the quality of their gold fish, Mt. Parnell Fisheries are also nationally known for the "Aqua Loop" fish bowls. These bowls, designed and patented by Mr. Rice, have done much to increase the pleasure of having gold-fish in the home.



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